

D-7671

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## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

D. 1671  
24 12 36

S.1, Special Branch.

## REPORT

Date December 23, 1936.

Subject Communication dated 11/12/36 from the British Consulate-General concerning A.A. Gossevsky.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev Forwarded by *G. Moore 6/5/36*

Alexis Alexander Gossevsky, naturalized British subject, of Russian origin, was born on July 28, 1893 at St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). Former artillery officer of the Russian Imperial Army he is reported to have seen active service during the Great War. In 1918-1920 during the civil war in Russia he fought in the ranks of Admiral Kolchak's army in Siberia. Following the defeat of the "Whites" in 1920 Gossevsky together with the remainder of Ataman Annenkov's detachment found his way to Singkiang Province, China, where the detachment was interned by the Chinese authorities. Later during the same year he proceeded to Peking and subsequently resided in Tientsin where he is reported to have been employed with a local firm dealing in furs. While in Tientsin he married Miss T.A. Froloff, daughter of a former officer of the Russian Army.

In 1926 he arrived in Shanghai from Tientsin and resided in this city until 1929. Here he was employed first with the West Coast Life Insurance Co. and later joined the Asia Life Insurance Co. It is reported that on behalf of the latter Company he visited Hongkong, Saigon, Haiphong and Hanoi. At present he is manager of the Singapore branch of the company. It appears that it was during the period of his residence in Singapore that he became a British subject.

On March 12, 1936 Gossevsky who together with his family was proceeding to the United States on long leave arrived in Shanghai from Singapore in the s.s. SHARNHORST. From the Alien Passport Declaration Form he filled up prior to the disembarkation it appears that he holds British passport No.13404 issued on 29/1/36 at Singapore. He gave his home address as 3 Leonie Hill, Singapore, and as references in Shanghai mentioned

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

**REPORT**

Date. .... 19

Subject.....

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- 2 -

Messrs A.M. Wolynsky, of the International Assurance Co. and G.F. Richardson of the United States Life Insurance Co., 17 The Bund. On March 26 he left for Los Angeles in the s.s. "President Coolidge." On his return trip to Singapore he paid another short visit to Shanghai, arriving here on August 24 in the s.s. "President Coolidge" and leaving on September 15 in the s.s. "Chitral."

Gossevsky's sister is married to an Englishman (particulars of name etc. not available) while his sister-in-law is married to a Russian named A.A. Essen, who is employed with Chinese Maritime Customs as a light-house keeper.

It is reported that while in Singapore some time ago Gossevsky made the acquaintance of a certain Russian of Georgian origin named J.N. Bebour-Vachnadze, who was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment in Shanghai recently for fraud. It appears that Gossevsky introduced the latter individual to certain residents of Singapore and that he has every reason to regret it. At least, during one of his recent visits to Shanghai he refused to see Bebour-Vachnadze who was anxious to pay him a visit.

Enquiries regarding his antecedents prior to his coming to Shanghai do not elicit any information which could reflect adversely on his character. While in Shanghai he did not come to the notice of the Municipal Police in connection with any activities of an undesirable nature. He was member of the Russian Ex-Officers' Club in Shanghai. Several persons of good standing in the local Russian community, who knew Gossevsky personally, describe him as a respectable person of good family and education.

*A. Prokopiev*  
D.S.I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

7671  
24 - 12 - 36

December 24

36.

My dear Steptoe,

With reference to your letter dated December 11, 1936, I forward herewith for your information a copy of a report regarding A.A. Gossevsky.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) K. M. Burns.

H.N. Steptoe, Esq.,  
H.B.M. Consulate-General,  
Shanghai.

MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. I. REGIST...  
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL  
P.O. BOX 250. 7621  
SHANGHAI.

11. 12. 36.

My dear Bourne,

The Asia Life Insurance Co., 17 The Bund, has a branch office in Singapore in charge of a Russian named A. A. GOSSEVSKY.

I have nothing definite against this man but would be most grateful for any information which may be obtainable here about his history prior to his joining the company (which I believe he did about 6 - 7 years ago).

I am particularly anxious that my enquiries should not in any way harm the man vis a vis his firm.

Yours Sincerely,

H. K. H. K. H.  
H. K. H. K. H.

P.A

Major K. M. Bourne M.C.,  
Deputy Commissioner of Police,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
Foochow Road.

